



IN THE SPECIFICATION (CLEAN VERSION)

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 18, lines 5-12, to be as follows:

The method of the present invention is well suited for use with an online ordering system, such as an Internet-based hot runner configuration system. The assignee of the present invention operates such a system, named Merlin™, which is suitable for use with the method of the present invention. For more information on Merlin™, see the URL “www.moldmasters.com” and the commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/595,154, entitled “Method And Apparatus For An Automated Injection Molding Configuring and Manufacturing System,” filed concurrently with the present application on June 16, 2000, and specifically incorporated in its entirety herein by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS (CLEAN VERSION)

Please cancel claims 15-20 and add the following new claims 21-26:

- 21. (New) A method for manufacturing and assembling hot runner systems, the method comprising the steps of:
- partially manufacturing a plurality of molding components in a first phase;
 - placing the molding components in stock;
 - receiving an order with specifications for a hot runner system;
 - removing the molding components from stock; and
 - further manufacturing the molding components in accordance with the specifications of the order in a second phase.

22. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the specifications comprise at least one of nozzle types, nozzle pitches, manifold shapes, manifold lengths, and manifold thickness.

23. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the molding components comprise a manifold plate, and further comprising the step of milling a groove in the manifold plate and inserting a heating element into the groove.

24. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the molding components comprise a manifold plate, and further comprising the step of grinding the manifold plate to dimensions that correspond to the specifications of the order.

25. (New) The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of assembling the molding components into an incomplete hot runner system in the first phase.

26. (New) The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of further assembling the molding components into a complete hot runner system in accordance with the specifications of the order in the second phase.

REMARKS

As indicated in the present amendments to the specification, Applicant has added the Patent Application Serial Number to the "Method And Apparatus For An Automated Injection Molding Configuring and Manufacturing System" in response to the Examiner's request. This